

VZCZCXYZ0001
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTH #1079 1770711
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O R 260713Z JUN 09
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0337
INFO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0004
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 0068
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0004
RUEHBS/AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 0004
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0004
RUEHCP/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 0004
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI 0005
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0006
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0004
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0001
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0004
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0004
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0004
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0012
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID 0018
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 0005
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 0004
RUEHNV/AMEMBASSY MONROVIA 0004
RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 0011
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0004
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0005
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0004
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0005
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0007
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0011
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0036
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0011
RUEHTH/AMEMBASSY ATHENS
RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 0004
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 0004
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA 0004
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA 0010

UNCLAS ATHENS 001079

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EWWT](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PHSA](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [GR](#)

SUBJECT: GREECE AGREES AN INTERNATIONAL PIRACY COURT IS NOT THE RIGHT DIRECTION

REF: STATE 58579; ATHENS 735

¶1. (SBU) We delivered ref A non-paper, "An International Piracy Court: Not the Right Direction," to the Greek MFA June 9, and discussed it in a follow-up meeting with D1 Directorate (UN and IO Affairs) Counselor Dimitrios Papandreou and Legal Advisor Fani Livada on June 18. Echoing earlier comments from Greek officials (ref B), Papandreou and Livada indicated that Greece shares U.S. concerns about an international piracy court. Livada noted that German officials had been pushing the idea with her and other Greek officials, but the Greeks had three main objections:

-- The time lost in establishing such a tribunal.

-- The cost, both for establishing and maintaining the tribunal. Livada noted that if the tribunal was established by a UN Security Council Resolution, it was unclear how states would be assessed to provide contributions.

-- The fact that piracy was a lower order of crime than those for which other international tribunals have been established, such as genocide, war crimes, and other crimes against humanity.

¶2. (SBU) Livada said that Greek legislation provided for universal jurisdiction over piracy, which in theory would permit Greece to try in domestic courts any piracy cases that occurred in international waters, regardless of whether Greek interests were victims. She said Greece was pleased with the Kenya arrangement, but she acknowledged that even if other regional countries agreed to take some pirates we would eventually reach the limit of their capacity. She said it was Greece's position that the flag of the ship attacked by pirates was the primary factor determining responsibility. She added that Greece would be hesitant to start accepting pirates for prosecution as long as other major states were taking few if any pirates for prosecution.

¶3. (SBU) Papandreou and Livada expressed strong support for continued close cooperation with the U.S. in the fight against piracy, including through the Contract Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) where they have both taken part in working group meetings. Papandreou stressed the importance of greater information and intelligence sharing, including information gained from trials and interrogations of pirates in Kenya.
SPECKHARD